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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Programme 12
Human settlements

1. At its 15th meeting, on 14 June 2013, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/75).

2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for programme 12, Human settlements, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6/Rev.1) and for the work of UN-Habitat. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the incorporation of the recommendations of the Committee, clearly elaborating the revisions, and reflecting, in the biennial programme plan, the six-year strategic plan 2014-2019 as approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. Some delegations noted the

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incorporation of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015.

4. The view was expressed that the cooperation and collaboration of UN-Habitat with other United Nations organizations in executing its programme of work was important. Clarification was sought regarding the collaboration of UN-Habitat with partners outside the United Nations system and on how synergies are created between UN-Habitat and other United Nations structures as a result of such collaboration.

5. Clarification was sought on the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues, such as youth, human rights, partnerships and climate change throughout the seven subprogrammes, as indicated in paragraph 81 of the report.

6. Questions were raised about the inclusion of human rights as a cross-cutting issue in the programme. In that context, clarification was sought on the nature and the scope of the implementation of actions related to human rights. The opinion was expressed that UN-Habitat does not have any mandate in the field of human rights. Information was also requested on cooperation between UN-Habitat and other United Nations entities, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

7. Other delegations expressed the view that they did not share the concern over the inclusion of human rights as a cross-cutting issue.

8. In addition, delegations sought clarification on the use of the term "planned results" in paragraph 78 of the report and asked whether this was a new category being introduced as opposed to the agreed terminology of "expected accomplishments". Explanation was also sought on the "Project Advisory Group" "in-house peer review mechanism" discussed in paragraph 83 of the report, in particular, who are the members of the Group, what is the purpose of the entity and who constituted a "peer".

9. Some delegations sought clarification on the results-based budgeting methodology in general, and expressed their views on the development of better indicators of achievement.

10. A query was made on indicator of achievement (b) under subprogramme 1, Urban legislation, land and governance, on the approach to the implementation of programmes for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, indigenous people and minorities. Under the same subprogramme, a delegation expressed views on the formulation of the indicator of achievement (c) (i), in which the phrase "implementing the guidelines on decentralization" had been replaced with "adopted the guidelines on decentralization".

11. Under subprogramme 5, Housing and slum upgrading, clarification was sought on the use of the term "supranational authorities" in indicator of achievement (a) (i), and on the meaning of the expression "unlawful forced evictions" in indicator of achievement (a) (ii).

12. Some delegations sought clarification as to whether UN-Habitat had established criteria to identify projects under technical cooperation for implementation in a particular country. The view was expressed on the incorporation

of the post-2015 agenda into the programme of work of UN-Habitat and delivery of its programme in the Africa region, especially the least developed countries.

13. The view was expressed with regard to the importance of providing printed publications in lieu of electronic distribution in countries that have limited technology.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee emphasized the need for UN-Habitat to develop synergies with other United Nations entities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.**

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/75), subject to the following modifications:**

Delete the reference to "planned results" in the document.

Paragraph 83

In the second sentence, after the word "documents", add the phrase "including those to be implemented in countries which are not beneficiaries of the United Nations operational activities for development."

In the last sentence, delete the phrase "and that indicators are put in place to monitor human rights progress."

Subprogramme 1

In indicator of achievement (a), at the end of the phrase, add the words "with the technical support of UN-Habitat".

Subprogramme 3

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the word "targeted" with the word "partner".

Subprogramme 4

In expected accomplishment (a), after the words "implemented by", add the word "partner".

Reformulate indicator of achievement (a) as follows:

"Increased number of partner local, regional and national authorities implementing policies and the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All".

Subprogramme 5

Reformulate indicator of achievement (a) (i) as follows:

"Number of local, regional and national authorities, as well as regional and international forums, organizations and partners, that have joined the Global Housing Strategy."